

Talking With Kids Tools for Volunteers

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Agenda

- ▶ Introductions
- ▶ CAC & Investigative Process
- ▶ In the Hallway
- ▶ Red Flags
 - What to listen for
 - How to transition
- ▶ Disclosure
- ▶ Scenarios
- ▶ Discussion



Child Advocacy Centers » and Investigative Process

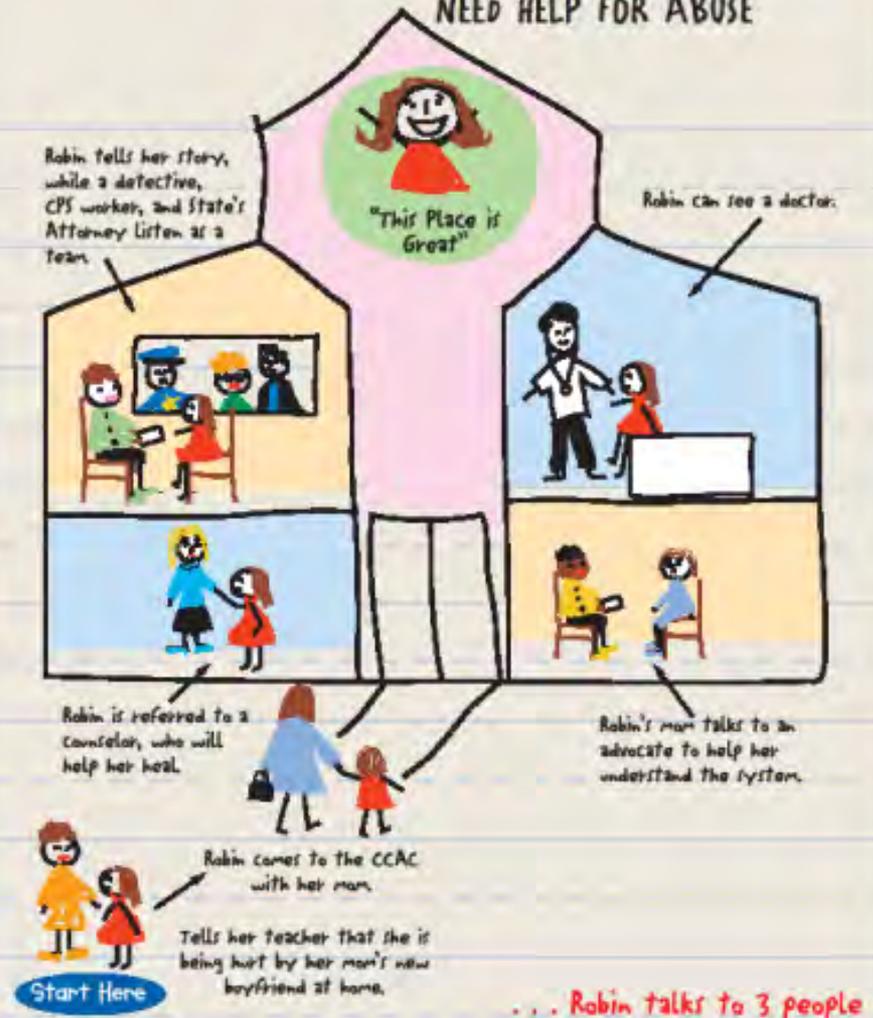
Changing the Child Abuse System

WHAT USED TO HAPPEN WHEN KIDS NEEDED HELP FOR ABUSE



Changing the Child Abuse System

WHAT HAPPENS TODAY WHEN KIDS NEED HELP FOR ABUSE



In the hallway – keep in mind

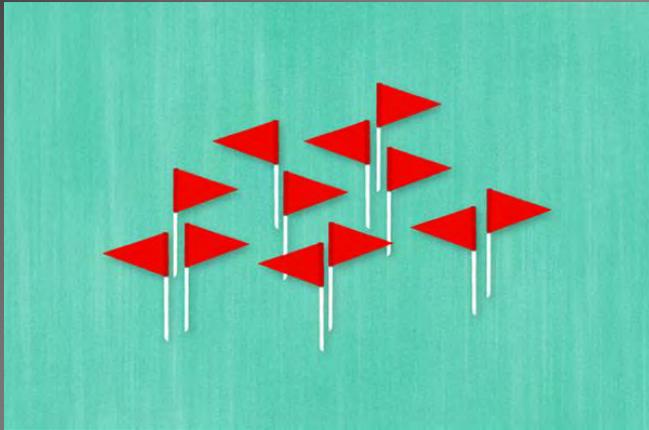
- ▶ Get down on their level
- ▶ No Physical Contact
- ▶ Appropriate emotional reactions
 - No labelling
- ▶ Body Language
- ▶ Confidentiality



Talking to kids



- ▶ Open-ended questions
- ▶ Avoid using “why”
- ▶ More listening, less talking
- ▶ Let the child share what they want
- ▶ Not problem solving
- ▶ Bringing it back to
 - What we talk about
 - No, Go, Tell
 - Skills they have learned in the past
 - What have you done before that has worked?



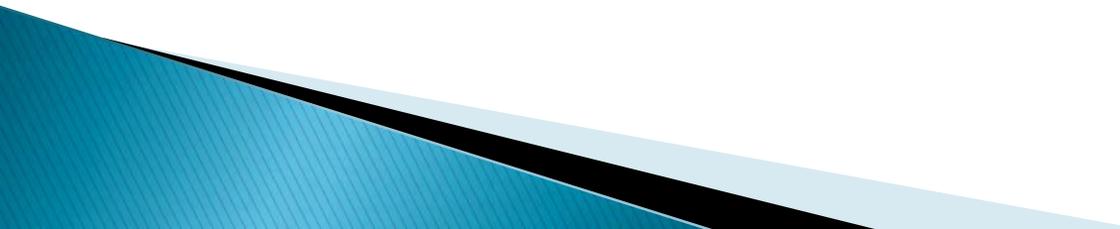
Red Flags

»» This is when you call in the reserves

Red Flags

Physical abuse	“My sister hits and kicks me when my mom isn’t home”
Witnessing Domestic Violence	“My mom and dad fight all the time, there are holes in the wall.”
Sexual Abuse	“My step-dad gives me an unsafe touch.”
Exposure to Pornography	“I saw pictures of naked people at my friend’s house.”
Production of Pornography	“My cousin took a picture of me when I was going to the bathroom”

Things to avoid

- ▶ Asking “Do you feel safe?”
 - ▶ Assuming:
 - If the mom knows, everything is ok
 - If it happened “a long time ago” everything is ok
 - ▶ Strong Reaction to anything the child says
 - ▶ Talking about it with other volunteers
- 

Ways to transition

- ▶ What you are telling me is really important. I need you to talk to my friend (Trish, Claudia or Gretchen).
- ▶ Don't interrupt, but jump in at the first pause.



You are a trusted adult



Remember this

Kids might tell you things

Modeling healthy behavior

Reaction

Disclosure

- ▶ The bravery of active disclosure
- ▶ Different Stages of disclosure
 - Denial
 - Tentative
 - Active
 - Recantation
 - Reaffirmation
- ▶ Calm and Neutral

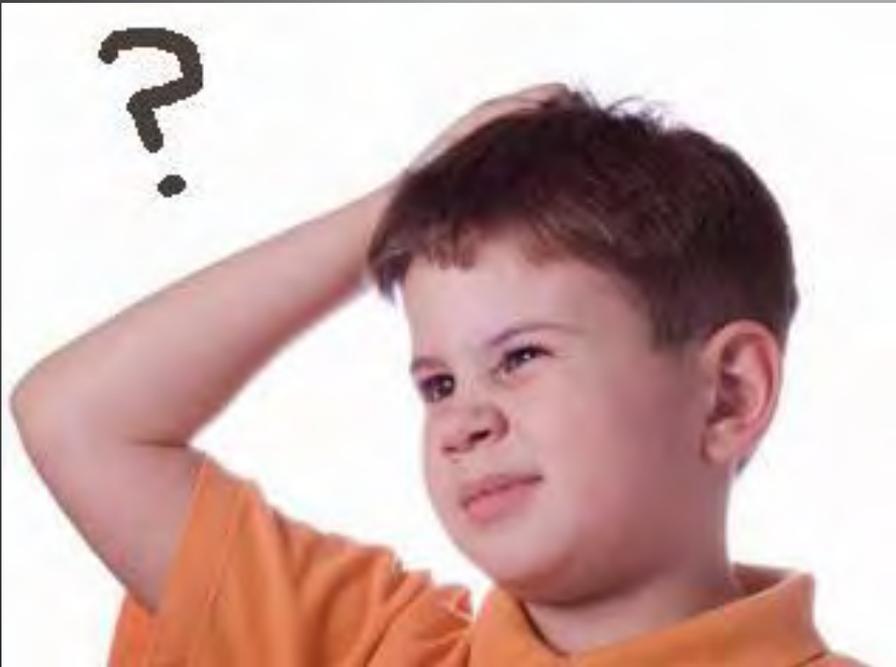


Important things to consider

- ▶ Make it safe for the child
- ▶ Handle things appropriately
- ▶ The less times they are investigated the better
- ▶ It's not our job
 - We don't need to investigate

Children's memory

- ▶ Suggestibility
- ▶ Leading questions
- ▶ The more times they tell a story



Legal Implications

- ▶ As a caution, failure to report is a crime.
- ▶ Mandatory Reporting

Statutory Law 19-3-304

“Any person who specified in subsection (2) of this section who has reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect or who has observed the child being subjected to circumstances or conditions that would reasonably result in abuse or neglect shall immediately upon receiving such information report or cause a report to be made of such fact to the county department or local law enforcement agency”

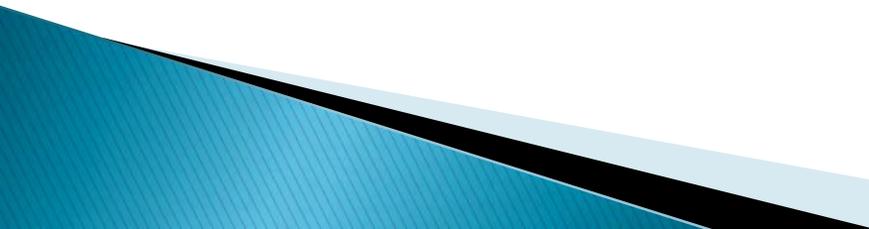
Practice what you would say to kids if they said....

Student comes into the hallway and says that sometimes when her dad tickles her, he accidentally touches her private parts. She wants to know if that is an unsafe touch and what should she do?

Student comes into the hallway and says that a long time ago mom and dad got drunk and got into a huge fight. Dad had a gun and they were yelling really loudly. He was scared and didn't know what to do then the cops came and took dad away to jail. His parents told him to keep it a secret because nobody needs to know.

Student comes in the hallway and says that when she was 5 her cousin touched her and told her to keep it a secret. Now that she knows not to keep secrets, she thought she should tell someone.

Student comes into the hallway and tells you that her dad is giving her sister unsafe touch.



Student comes into the hallway and tells you that her next door neighbors wanted her to take pictures of them with their clothes off. She didn't want to, but they took her phone and did it. Every time they come over they want to play this game and now she has to hide her phone from them.

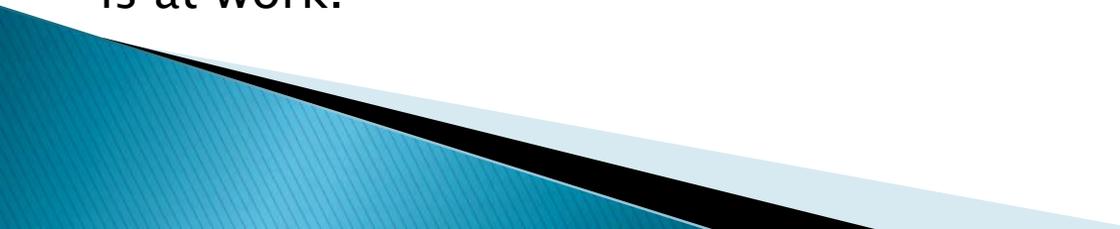
Student says that his uncle made him touch him when he was in kindergarten.

Student says, "Daddy touched my cookies."

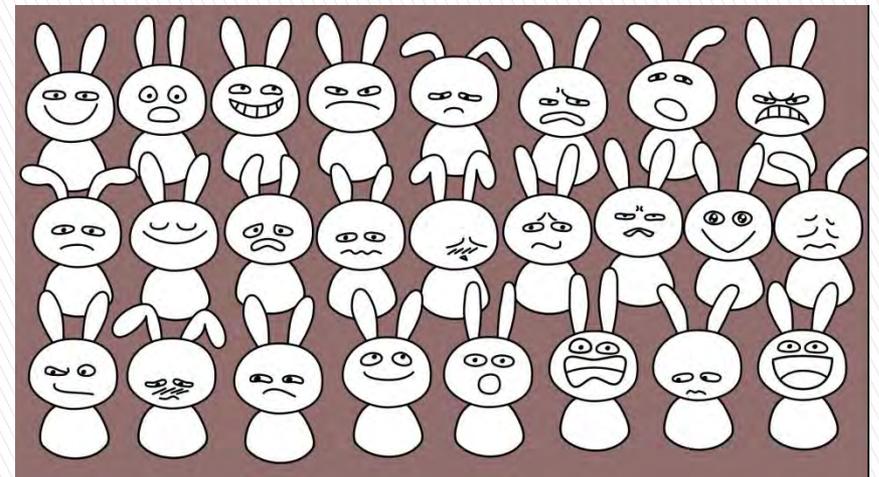
Student says his brother and sister use the bathroom while he is in the shower and it makes him uncomfortable.

Student informs you that someone touched her and is now touching her baby brother.

Student says her step-dad comes into her bed late at night when her mom is at work.



Discussion

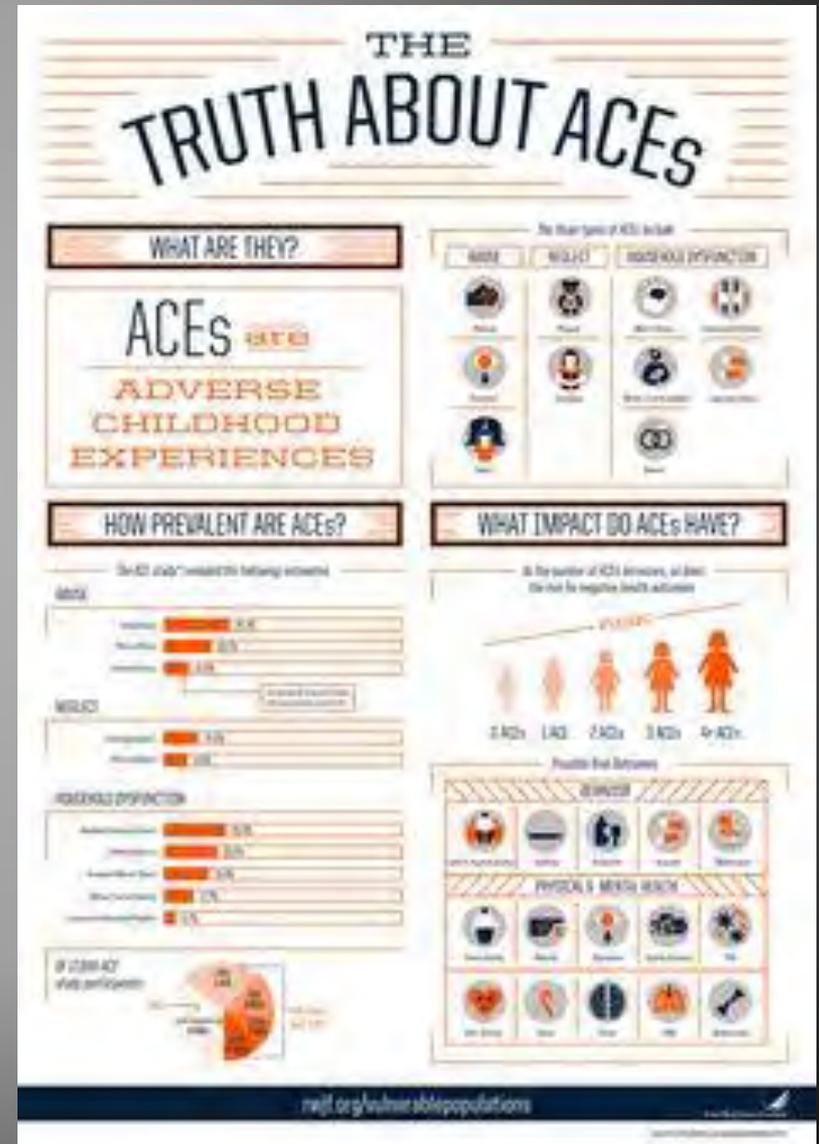


Thoughts?

How do you feel?

Trauma and children

- ▶ Affect on Children
 - ACES
 - Longer lasting
- ▶ What happened to you vs. what is wrong with you





Questions? >>

Thank you

